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Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“With reference to the answer given in the latter part of clause (c) may I ask the hon. the Minister for Education whether he would be pleased to see that arrangements to restore those lapsed grants next year are made ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ It is not a question of lapsed grants at all. It is only a question of financial stringency as is given in the answer.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to restore them in the next year’s budget ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ The administrative departments concerned will take the necessary steps.”

*Presidents of Secondary Education Boards.*

432 Q.—Mr. ABBAS ALI KHAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(1) how many of the Presidents of the newly constituted Secondary Education Boards are (1) Brahmans, (2) non-Brahmans, (3) Mussalmans, (4) Indian Christians, (5) Adi-Davidas and other depressed classes ; and

(2) how many of these were members of the past Legislative Council and what are their names and their educational attainments ?

A.—(1) Presidents of District Secondary Education Boards—

Brahmans	...	...	...	...	5
Non-Brahman Hindus	...	...	...	...	16
Muhammadan	...	...	...	...	1
Indian Christians	...	...	...	...	2
Adi-Davidas and other depressed classes	...	...	...	...	Nil.

(2) The following are the names of the Presidents of District Secondary Education Boards who were members of the past Legislative Council :—

- (1) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur T. Balaji Rao Nayudu Garu, President, District Board, Kistna.
- (2) M.R.Ry. Rai Bahadur P. C. N. Ethirajulu Nayudu Garu, President, District Board, Guntur.
- (3) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur C. Venkataranga Reddi Garu, B.A., B.L., President, District Board, Kurnool.
- (4) M.R.Ry. P. Siva Rao Garu, B.A., B.L.
- (5) M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai Avargal, President, District Board, Anantapur.
- (6) M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur T. M. Narasimha Achariyar Avargal, B.A., B.L., President, District Board, Cuddapah.
- (7) M.R.Ry. W. Vijayaraghava Mudaliyar Avargal, President, District Board, North Arcot.
- (8) M.R.Ry. B. Muniswami Nayudu Garu, B.A., B.L., President, District Board, Chittoor.
- (9) M.R.Ry. K. Sitarama Reddiyar Avargal, B.A., B.L. (till lately President, District Board, South Arcot).
- (10) Diwan Bahadur Sir T. Desika Achariyar Avargal, B.A., B.L., President, District Board, Trichinopoly.

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- (11) M.R.Ry. P. T. Rajan Avargal, B.A. (Oxon), Bar.-at-Law.
- (12) M.R.Ry. Raja Rajeswara Sethupathi alias Muthuramalinga Sethupathi Avargal, Raja of Ramnad, President, District Board, Ramnad.
- (13) M.R.Ry. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar Avargal, B.A., B.L.
- (14) M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib S. Ellappa Chettiar Avargal, Vice-President, District Board, Salem, and President in charge.
- (15) M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas Avargal.

The Government are not in possession of details of the educational qualifications of all the gentlemen.

**Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:**—"With reference to statement given in A (1) of the answer, will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state why there are no Adi-Dravida Presidents of the District Secondary Education Boards?"

**The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:**—"No suitable persons were available."

**Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:**—"With reference to the answer now given are we to understand that among the Adi-Dravidas there are not men of sufficient common-sense, business instincts, and ability to discharge the duties of Presidents of District Secondary Education Boards? (Hear, hear, from the Opposition Benches.)"

**Mr. R. VEERIAN:**—"May I ask the hon. the Minister for Education as to why no member of the Adi-Dravida community or other member of the depressed classes was appointed or nominated as presidents of the newly constituted Secondary Education Boards either in Madras or in the mufassal?"

**The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:**—"The question now asked will be remembered when the matter is next considered."

**The hon. the PRESIDENT:**—"I have to inform the House that question 197 which was put on the paper yesterday is not called to-day. For, the understanding was that supplementary questions were to be sent in to the Secretary before 5 p.m. yesterday. Since no supplementary questions were sent in the question is not called to-day."

**Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR:**—"Sir, I was not sure that it would be answered to-day. In view of the fact that both the hon. the President and the Finance Member said that it would be better if further questions were put instead of supplementary questions, and also in view of the fact that the answers raised important issues I thought that fresh questions would be more satisfactory than mere supplementary questions which would probably elicit the answer from the Government Members that they would require consideration or they would require time."

**The hon. the PRESIDENT:**—"Quite right."

**Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:**—"Sir, I also did not send my supplementary questions because in the first place their nature depends on the kind of answers we get. One answer will lead to another question and so on. If one is to table all supplementary questions in advance it will have to be by prophecy which power I do not possess. Secondly, in view of the great importance of the issues raised I thought the best course will not be by asking

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questions at all, but by moving an adjournment of the House or by definitely tabling a motion that the interpretation of the power and prestige of the Ministry as contained in that statement does not meet with the approval of this House and is inconsistent with the spirit of the Reforms Act. We feel very strongly on this subject. I also wanted to raise a point of order with reference to this. Sir, it will be remembered by you that last year the hon. the Law Member raised a point of order with reference to the resolution of my hon. Friend from Bellary to the effect that certain appointments should not be discussed inasmuch as they were vested in His Excellency. Your very distinguished predecessor gave a ruling on that matter. Now, Sir, we would like you to give a ruling whether this interpretation of the power and prestige of Ministers is a proper one under the Reforms Act. Since His Excellency is now the person who exercises real control over these appointments I ask you to give us a ruling whether it would be right on our part to criticise the conduct of His Excellency in all these matters."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Do I understand the hon. Member to raise a point of order, now ? Or does he intend to raise a point of order hereafter ? "

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Any way, Sir, I have brought it to your notice ; probably I have not explained myself fully. Sir, if the hon. the Chief Minister is a responsible Minister, we should confine our criticism to him and to his colleagues : but if his part is only to advise His Excellency in the way in which anybody else may do and if the real power is elsewhere, we will in future not criticise him but criticise the persons in whom such power is vested. There has been already a ruling on this point. I think I may refer the matter to your kind consideration."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" This question must be considered in all its bearings. There will be no harm if the hon. Member devotes some further time to making up his mind as to what form his action will take. Any questions that are put by hon. Members will be considered in the ordinary way as to their admissibility."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" With your permission, Sir, may I ask the hon. the Chief Minister whether he is satisfied with the position as defined in his answer ? This can be answered without notice, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It would be better if this question were not put."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Sir, this question was postponed since some Members were not ready with supplementary questions. It would place those who are prepared with supplementary questions at a disadvantage. It was on the order paper ; the answer has been given and I was unfortunately not here, yesterday. And therefore those who were not parties to any such arrangement should not be penalized by not allowing them to put supplementary questions to-day."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am under the impression that the whole House was a party to the arrangement (hear, hear). It was openly discussed and there is absolutely no harm, in deferring the supplementary questions. It is a matter of importance and hon. Members may frame separate questions and these will be answered by the hon. Members of Government so far as they are able to answer them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I was not here ; I was not a party . . . ."

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The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“Sir, though the hon. Member had about 43 questions on the paper yesterday he did not do the House the courtesy of attending the meeting. Is he now entitled to take advantage of that fact ? ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“I am sorry, Sir, I was not able to attend on account of an unfortunate domestic occurrence.”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—“I express my regret, Sir ; I was not aware of the circumstance.”

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—“Mr. President, Sir, with reference to the ruling you gave in connexion with the cross-fire opened by Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, may I know whether this precedent can apply to other Members ? Can we ask an hon. Member to explain himself if we don’t understand him well ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“Any hon. Member is entitled to ask for explanation of anything that is not clearly understood.”

The House adjourned for lunch at 1-30 p.m.

#### APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 295 asked by Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 8th February 1924, page 351 supra.]

*Extract of letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, D. Dis. No. 6412/23-A-2, dated 17th January 1924.*

5. *Representation of ryots.*—I received a deputation yesterday headed by the three local Members of the Legislative Council, Messrs. V. C. Vellingiri Goundar, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar and T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar. A number of big ryots from Avanashi, Coimbatore, Dharapuram, Erode and Palladam taluks attended. The deputation suggested that free permits for grazing might be issued to ryots paying less than Rs. 50 assessment and also to tenants paying small rents ; also that free cutting of grass in forest reserves should be allowed, that penning licences should be issued freely and that the block system should be abolished where it continues. The latter suggestion appears to apply to Mettupalayam and Bolampatti forest ranges only, which are on the western side of the Avanashi and Coimbatore taluks respectively. They also suggest that the Railway Companies might be asked to allow special concession rates for the import of fodder. With regard to grazing concessions, I am taking necessary action and will adopt these suggestions as far as possible except with reference to the grant of free permits to wealthy ryots and tenants. I propose to see the result of the issue of free permits to ryots paying not more than Rs. 10 in the first instance. It must be remembered that in the present season the grazing capacity of the forest reserves is very limited.

The deputation also requested that where dry crops have largely failed or lands have been left waste, remission of dry assessment should be granted and that in other cases suspension of dry assessment should be ordered by me immediately with a view to subsequent remission where failure should be ascertained.